

THREE ROBBERIES AND TWO HOLDUPS IN 3 BOROUGHES

Chloroform Spray Used in
Home of Close Friend
of Mayor Hylan.

DEAD LINE VIOLATED

Two Safes Rifled in Ship-
ping Company Offices
at 42 Broadway.

FOUR ROB RESTAURANT

Youth Arrested Charged With
Having Possession of Bur-
glar Tools.

Two holdups and three robberies, in one of which the thieves chloroformed four persons sleeping in their beds, figured yesterday the activities of criminals in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Richmond. Joseph A. Solovet, until recently Assistant Corporation Counsel in charge of street openings in Brooklyn and a close friend of Mayor Hylan, was one of the victims of the house robbers who used the chloroform spray. Safe robbers again defied the Fulton street dead line by rifling two safes between Saturday night and yesterday morning in the office building at 42 Broadway.

Mr. Solovet, who was removed from office by Mayor Hylan after he had been indicted by the Federal Grand Jury December 4 on charges alleging he bribed a prohibition agent, said last night that the thieves who robbed his home, 29 Thatford avenue, Brooklyn, early yesterday morning were not novices. Mr. Solovet is convinced chloroform was used, for he and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Solovet, and his sister, Miss Sarah Solovet, awoke with severe headaches. The thieves did not overlook any of the fourteen rooms in the house, he said, and took everything of value that they might dispose of, including two bottles of his private stock. Their loot consisted of clothing and jewelry valued at \$1,500.

Detectives investigating the robbery feel certain that the robbing party included a female Raffles or else one of the thieves was desirous of collecting a token suitable for a woman friend. Miss Solovet discovered that her powder puff and other articles pertaining to a young woman's toilet were missing, as well as a pair of long gloves. She also missed a seal coat lined with beaver valued at \$200.

The safe robbers who ripped open two safes in the offices of the Cosmopolitan Shipping Company and the Montana Power Company, on the fourth and seventh floors respectively of 42 Broadway,

used the crudest methods. They knocked the combinations off with sledge hammers. Three other safes that they tackled proved too large and strong for them. The safes robbed were in the steamship company's offices and yielded the robbers \$300 in cash and \$50 worth of postage stamps. Detectives investigating the robberies are mystified as to how the robbers got into the steamship company's offices, as the doors were found locked yesterday morning. There is a watchman in the building every night and he saw no one enter.

Four men armed with revolvers pushed their way into the kitchen of the High Mandarin Restaurant, 2827 Third avenue, yesterday afternoon and bound and gagged Lee Hong, 50 years old, the proprietor. The restaurant is near 149th street, which is considered the heart of the Bronx. The thieves stole \$28 from the cash register and were about to leave when William Bohan of 135 Alexander avenue and Vincent Paradisi of 582 Morris avenue started to ascend the chest of stairs leading to the restaurant.

Both Bohan and Paradisi perceived what was going on and fled to the street, with the thieves at their heels. The robbers, witnesses say, were in a taxicab, which dashed south in Third avenue. Bohan came upon Policeman Patrick Bray of the Alexander avenue station, a block away. Bray obtained a description of the four building every night and he saw no one enter.

Policeman Theodore A. Raphael of the Beach street station found the prostrate form of a woman lying in the street at Franklin street and West Broadway. The policeman took her to the station, where when revived she said she was Miss Constance Durbin, 19 years old, of 215 East Eighteenth street. The young woman said she had been lured into a taxicab by three men who beat and robbed her and then threw her into the street. Her lips were cut and there was a deep gash over her eye. Miss Raphael displayed a number of badly twisted gold links, which, she said, was all that remained of her gold wrist watch. The young woman repeated her story to Magistrate Tobias in Tombs Court and was released.

Robert Klenzie, Jr., and his uncle, Charles Klenzie, were opening up their hotel at 325 Richmond Turnpike, Tompkinsville, S. L. yesterday morning, when an armed robber walked into the room. He forced the two men back into a wire cage where the cash drawer was located and to hand over the contents, amounting to \$150, to him. He then pushed them into a rear room and locked the door.

Detectives Fitzgerald and Browning of the West 100th street station descended upon a furnished room at 65 West 106th street and arrested John Thomas, John Polittiere and James Lyons, whom they found occupying the room, on charges alleging robbery and violation of the Sullivan law. The detectives say they found three revolvers, a blackjack, a flashlight, a sectional jimmy and other articles belonging to a burglar's wardrobe in a handbag that Thomas claimed ownership of. The robbery the men are suspected of is that of the delicatessen store of Max Rubin at 573 Amsterdam avenue on December 13. They were held in \$5,000 bail each by Magistrate Nolan in West Side Court.

TRACTION BILL DRAFTED.

DETROIT, Jan. 10.—Formation of a company to be conducted on a service at cost basis, having administrative control over all street railway lines and in effect ending the controversy between the city and the Detroit United Railway, is proposed in the draft of an ordinance presented to the city Corporation Council by the attorneys for the D. U. R. to-day.

CRIME SUSPECTED IN A CITY CONTRACT

Steinbrink Tells Board of Estimate He Has Case for
Grand Jury.

SHROUDED IN SECRECY

Hylan Instructs Lawyer to
Confer With the Corpora-
tion Counsel.

The monotony of the Board of Estimate's routine questioning of city contractors was interrupted yesterday by the announcement of Meler Steinbrink, associate counsel of the board's inquiry, that he had discovered a general city contract so suspicious in its details that it ought to be taken before the Grand Jury.

That was the nearest the board has come to revealing a crime so far, and Mr. Steinbrink did not tell even the board what it was all about. Mayor Hylan instructed the counsel to take the matter up with the Corporation Counsel and the board resumed its grind.

"One contract, I might call it a general city contract," said Mr. Steinbrink, "has been discovered with circumstances that are highly suspicious. For instance, there has been alteration of records, and it does not seem that this would have been done if the affair had been honest. I do not think that this matter, in which the question of criminality is involved, should be made public at present. Several other contracts are suspicious also. I think this contract should be described behind closed doors."

"Isn't it better to have the matter out in the open and let the people know about it?" asked the Mayor.

Mr. Steinbrink replied that might be the case generally, but in some cases the witnesses might disappear if the matters were made public. The Mayor insisted it would be better to let the public know about it, but finally ordered Mr. Steinbrink to confer with the Corporation Counsel and take whatever course the case deserved.

"I do not wish to be understood as stating definitely that there is a crime," Mr. Steinbrink explained. "But I do think that the matter is so highly suspicious that it ought to be presented to the Grand Jury."

The board questioned coal contractors yesterday and will continue its examinations to-day.

DETROIT OUTLOOK BRIGHTER.

Small Plants to Reopen—Stude-
baker Resumes.

DETROIT, Jan. 10.—Further slight improvement in the unemployment situation here was looked for this week with the reopening of several small plants and resumption of operations in additional departments of plants that have been working with curtailed forces.

The Continental Motors Corporation expected to reopen with a small force tomorrow. It has been closed since December 23. Normally the plant employs 3,000 men. The Studebaker Corporation reopened its local plant this morning, as did several other smaller factories. Announcement that the Ford Motor Company will reopen February 1 is expected to be made shortly.

PRICES AND WAGES CUT IN WOOL MILLS

Continued from First Page.

to reach this conclusion, because I realize that nothing can produce the kind of efficient work that I have been talking about better than a contented and well paid lot of workers. I hope that the announcement of readjustment of wages will be received by all the workers with the feeling that I have had their interests at heart, and that decision was reached with a full regard for what is just to them."

In an earlier statement issued to the employees Mr. Wood said:

"We have been waiting for business, but no business comes, so we have decided to do something to start business. If it can be done."

"First, we propose immediately to sell the cloth on hand at greatly reduced prices. This will be done at a substantial loss to the company, but we must meet it. It will be the company's loss alone. It will in no way affect your wages. Then we propose immediately to make the biggest effort we have ever made to get business to run our mills. But we are convinced our best efforts will not bring business unless we reduce the prices on our new season's goods. To do this we must reduce not only our profits but our costs as well, and among others our labor costs. If we do not do this we must close our mills. The matter up with the Corporation Counsel costs for next season's goods at a rate of wages lower than the present. We hope with prices thus fixed and our unusually strenuous efforts to get business to attract the trade so that we can sell cloth enough to pen up our mills and run them on full time. The next few weeks will tell the story."

"We therefore announce that the rate of wages in all our mills will be fixed, beginning Monday, January 17, at 22½ per cent. less than the present rate. We had hoped to avoid this reduction in wages, but we are convinced that it cannot be done."

"We believe that the action which we

have taken will meet your approval, for we believe it to be really in your interest, in that it will, in our judgment, avoid a shutdown and give to the workers a steadier and more permanent employment."

The City Council of Lawrence took immediate steps in the wage reduction situation. The Council voted to ask the managers of all local mills to attend a conference Thursday morning at City Hall. The Council plans to ask them if curtailments in the mills were due to market conditions only or to their desire to bring about a new wage scale. Mayor William P. White and ex-Senator Callahan, a member of the Council, were responsible for the Council's action. The Aldermen said great suffering of almost unbelievable character has been brought on by the unemployment of thousands of workers in the mills.

Officers of the Central Labor Union of Lawrence announced that a mass meet-

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IRON WAGES TO BE CUT.

READING, Pa., Jan. 10.—The Reading Iron Company posted notices to-day that a reduction in wages would be made in all its departments, effective next week. The new rates will be announced later.

The Crane Iron Company, Catsaugua, Pa., announced a wage cut of 20 per cent., effective January 15.

GINGHAM MILL RESUMES.

SAGO, Me., Jan. 10.—The New York Cotton Mills, employing 2,800 hands, resumed full time operation to-day. For the last few weeks the mills have been run on a three and four day schedule. They manufacture gingham.

OFFICE NEAR JAIL ROBBED.
Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Jan. 10.—The office of the Clerk of Orange county here was robbed some time between Saturday night and this morning of \$250 in cash and two Government bonds worth \$50 each. The office is across the street from the County Court House and the county jail.

Visit first the
MARMON
miniatures
Space A-23

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The experience of more than eighteen years, producing the largest number of high grade motor cars in the annals of the industry, is reflected in the marked development of the new Leland-built Lincoln Car.

Leland-built Lincoln Motor Cars are exhibited on the Third Floor at Grand Central Palace

A special display of standard and exclusive body types may be inspected in the Salon of the

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At Hotel Commodore

YOU are cordially invited to inspect the GARDNER LIGHT FOUR which will be on exhibition during the entire week of the Automobile Show in the main lobby of HOTEL COMMODORE.

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